THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 a person, who in the opinion of the Central Government, is qualified to judge the effect of a film on the public can be appointed as Member of the advisory pannels of the regional offices of CBFC. These may include politician cum actors among others.

TV and Radio Signals in the Border Areas

3200. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that TV and radio signals of foreign countries in the border areas are more powerful than the signals of the Doordarshan and Akashwani; and

(b) if so, the step Government are taking to counter the powerful signals received from the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The qulaity of Doordarshan and AIR signals in border areas is generally satisfactory. However foreign TV/Radio signals are receivable in some areas. Prasar Bharti has been assigning priority to expansion of TV/radio coverage in border areas in its expansion plans. At present, 50 AIR transmitters and 280 TV transmitters are under operation to provide satisfactory coverage in the border areas, which includes 92 TV transmitters set up under Special J&K Plan. In addition, 15 AIR transmitter projects and 34 TV transmitter projects are under implementation for expansion/improvement of TV/Radio coverage in the border areas.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in North East Region (including Sikkim) and Island Territories, Government has approved in principal implimentation of a Special Package. The Projects approved under the package are already under implementation.

Participation of Private Producers in the Production of Serials

†3201. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.